An Essay on

Phthisis Pulmonalis

Respectfully submitted
to the Faculty of the

Homœopathic Medical College
of
Pennsylvania

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by

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New York

Gentlemen

In conformity with the requirements of our Alma Mater to present a Thesis upon some medical subject I shall endeavor to select from the literature of ancient and modern times some item of truth appropriate to be deposited in the Archives of the Institution. I shall not attempt to appear learnedly wise. I shall not discuss the merits of Esculapius and Hippocrates of old, and down through a lapse of ages to compare and review all the theories and empiricisms of medicine, neither dilate largely upon our acknowledged system, the only scientific Theory and Practice

known in the history of the world-
Glancing over the old and the new,
a confused picture presents itself-
The wild theories in physiology, va-
garies in pathology, and especially
the therapeutic relation of drugs to
disease, have been subjects of fearful
discrepancy leading to dangerous and
even fatal results
Having learned more accurately the true
functions of the animal economy, and
having clearer and more correct knowledge
of morbid manifestations, and now that
we have found the pathogenesis of remedies
and a law of application based upon
nature Scientific and immutable, we
are able to combat disease with compar-
ative ease and precision -

Through the immortal Hahnemann a light has dawned upon the world whose effulgent rays will diffuse and cover the earth, and whose healing beams will rescue many souls from darkness and from death. Would that with remedial agents we could ch all pains stay the "destroyer" until man should enjoy his three score years and ten. But this imperfect state of things we cannot even hope to reach The seeds of disease are sown, they have grown and are bearing fruit to the destruction of the human family, and "to be perpetuated to the latest generation" And besides a predisposition to sickness man is continually exposed to external influences, and liable to contract disease

to-day he is well, to-morrow dies —
One individual may tax his person to
the storm, and transgress the laws of
health with seeming impunity - but
another by paying due regard to hygienic
laws, by preserving the strictest integrity
of the whole organism, is nevertheless
susceptible to the slightest influences
prone to disease, and death - A prominent
example of this may be cited in the
pulmonary consumption so prevalent among
us - when a strumous habit is
inherited rendering the organism peculiarly
liable to take on Specific morbid action
assuming the form of this fearfully
common and universally dreaded mal-
ady. This disease has been chosen the
subject of this Essay

Far back in the history of medicine and of the world we find that humanity has suffered hard and long with this same affliction - It chooses not only the aged & the strong man of middle life, but it insidiously and eagerly treads in the footsteps of innocence and beauty, never losing sight of its prey nor relinquishing its grasp until it stalks over the fair, faded, fallen corse of its emaciated victim - The fairest ones of earth as if by preference seem to be chosen and when the great and the good man dies, and as the cold cheek of beauty bears a blossom from the grave, we may truly say - "death aims at a shining mark"

Phthisis Pulmonalis consists

in the development of tuberculous matter in the lungs principally in the mucous membranes and sometimes in areolar tissue - Tubercles are composed of unorganized matter of a yellow color, opaque, friable and of the consistence of cheese, supposed to be deposited from the blood -
The shape generally approaches the round form according to the situation of the deposit -, if it be in the minute ramifications of the bronchia they assume a cylindrical shape, but if on mucous surfaces where an equal pressure may be supposed to exist on all sides a round form is obtained -
The favorite habitat of tubercles is the superior & posterior part of the superior lobes - the converse of inflammation

It also occurs much more frequently in the left lung than in the right. Contrary to pneumonia. Scrofulous inflammation is sooner or later set up around the tubercles when finally the whole mass breaks down and is expelled through the bronchia and trachea, to be expectorated at the mouth. The cavities resulting from the expulsion vary much in size & appearance, from the size of a pea, to the capacity of a pint. Sometimes blood vessels are involved in the ulceration process which may result in copious and fatal hemorrhage. When tubercles occur singly and have been completely emptied of their matter the cavities may collapse and obliterate entirely the tuberculous mass, leaving

nothing but a cicatrix, which may be known by puckering, and small folds found in the pleura. Generally however new deposits are made which multiply in number and size until they finally become exhausting and incompatible with life. If the disease advances the larynx and trachea become involved in ulceration giving rise to hoarseness and loss of voice known as laryngeal phthisis. This is said to be a diagnostic sign of tubercles in the lungs, as this condition is seldom met with (excepting the effects of syphilitic poison) but in cases of phthisis pulmonalis ulceration and tubercular deposit is not confined to the respiratory apparatus the mucous surfaces of the intestinal canal, the mucous follicles found in

the lower portion of the ilium – the mesentery &c are each the seat of tuberculous deposit and ulceration – The Stomach is found much enlarged and thinned, the liver is also enlarged and filled with adipose matter, feels greasy and soft –, and when heated, yields an oily substance – this is called the "fatty liver"

By auscultation and percussion we may learn much that is important, although whether the lung be hepatized or occupied with tuberculous matter, percussion will be dull, and auscultation the same in either case – If the lung be hepatized or solid from any cause there will be the absence of vesicular breathing, and the presence of bronchophony quite distinct

When emptied or partially emptied
cavities are met with a variety of
sounds are heard - In half emptied
cavities a gurgling sound is heard
sometimes called gargouillement this
is with one exception a sure sign
of cavities the only sources of fallacy
being in abscess from common inflam-
mation, and the globular expansion
found in the bronchia and their ram-
ifications - When empty cavities are
found an exception or aggravated bronchial
breathing obtains called cavernous res-
piration - If the cavities be large the
celebrated metallic sound is heard, this
being a symptom in pneumothorax also
the two conditions may be confounded
the difference being, that - In bronchial

cavities occupy the superior part of the chest as under the clavicle, while pneumothorax is the result of a rupture of the pleura, in the inferior and posterior part of the upper lobes at the angle of the thorax or fourth rib. The sound of the voice is also modified when large cavities exist. A reverberation is heard by the listener called pectoriloquy an unimportant symptom compared with cavernous respiration

Symptoms

One of the earliest symptoms in the pneumonic stage, is a dry cough which is occasional and slight generally occurs in the morning on rising and by exercise during the day

It finally becomes troublesome at night is attended with expectoration of mucus muco-purulent, and as the disease advances, it becomes opaque greenish intermixed with yellow and streaked with blood Sometimes portions of tuberculous matter are found in the expectoration which is regarded as quite a decisive circumstance in the case The sputa most characteristic of tuberculous formation is said to consist of globular flocculent masses which look like little portions of wool, and called Nummular Sputa Hemoptysis in this stage of the malady is a symptom of great importance being considered nearly pathognomonic excepting cases of injury, and the

various complications of female diseases vicarious hemorrhages &c. Dyspnea generally occurs not as a very distressing or alarming symptom although worthy of consideration but not noticeable from undue exertion of the lungs, because of the diminished quantity of blood to be arterialized, a part being wasted by cutaneous & pulmonary transpiration. The breathing may be hurried but more the effect difficult.

Pain in the chest although not a very reliable symptom, is quite frequent, and when sharp is evidence that the pleura is becoming inflammed and adhering to the affected part. But if severe pain be accompanied or followed with extreme dyspnea and anxiety this is strong evidence that perforation

of the pleura has taken place, which may terminate in serious and perhaps fatal consequences

The hectic fever of phthisis is a symptom of great moment, coming on insidiously with chilliness towards evening, dry and hot hands and feet at night, followed with profuse perspiration while asleep and in the morning before rising which is very exhausting to the patient. The pulse at this time is rapid and feeble — Diarrhea next supervenes of a colliquative character which seals with almost unerring certainty the nature of the disease, and tells the patient and his friends that death stands waiting at the door — Ulceration commences in the mucous follicles of the smaller intestines

and extends itself to all the similar surfaces, where tuberculous matter may be deposited

Emaciation which has marked the whole progress of the disease now becomes extreme and is always alarming - Edema of the ankles and of the hands and face, aphthae in the mouth, are conditions which are unmistakable in their language, and confirmatory to diarrhea that dissolution is near at hand

Different forms of phthisis are mentioned by authors - The mixed form furnishes sounds and modifications peculiar to tubercle and vomica before described - and no other sounds are audible - In other portions of the lungs the vesicular murmur of health is heard - In the mixed

form a variety of auscultatory sounds are discernable - crepitation & common inflammation are present making it much more accessible with remedies than the former variety -

Another form described by Dr Latham is when the patient has all the symptoms of acute phthisis, but deficient breathing, absence of expectoration, are the distinguishing characteristics of this form making it unlike other forms of the disease -

The duration of phthisis pulmonalis is varying, from a few months to as many years The period of life also when this malady numbers the most victims, is not limited but by far the greatest number of cases occur before the age of puberty - the

next greater number between twenty and thirty — thirty and forty, and so on each decennial period diminishing the number. It is supposed that more females than males die of consumption. The causes of this malady are various and sometimes obscure. In enumeration of the evident circumstances having to do with it, we may notice first, — a strumous habit by inheritance rendering the organism particularly liable to take on scrofula & tubercular disease from slight and unknown causes. Some occupations of life seem to promote its development by affording direct local irritants to the lungs themselves — as metal grinders & polishers of steel and bone — needle pointers and

workers in coal flax &c - Cork grinders are said to die of grinders Asthma or grinders rot, at an early age -
The minute foreign particles are inhaled into the lungs which become irritating and inflammation is set up which may be followed by suppuration and ulceration, or dry tubercles may be formed - Bronchitis watching, fatigue living in ill ventillated rooms, long continued mental anxiety, and various mental and moral excitements - all seem to favor and hasten the development of the disease - Onanism - Intemperance &c

Treatment and prognosis

The prognosis is generally unfavorable in fully developed cases The progress of the malady may sometimes be

arrested and death seemingly put-
off, and if proper remedies are applied
in the incipient stages, it may be
broken entirely, subject to further
attacks only from new and suf-
ficient causes

Thousands have fell before this form-
dable foe, and thousands more whose
fates are sealed are awaiting the same
end. It is sad to see youth, beauty
and manhood's strength, falling at
the hand of this insidious enemy, but
more to be lamented still is it, that
nostrums and heralded Specifics are
sweeping multitudes into an untimely
and premature grave-Looking over the
field of the "Regulars" as upon a battle
ground, a confused and bloody picture

is presented Champions for the truth
of heroic practice tread with intrepid
pace over the dying and the dead, exulting
in their dignity, and that the poor deluded
fallen victims around them have died
scientifically at the hand of skill-
While veterans at peace lie quietly in
the rear, satiated with a long and
fruitless ambition - while others mingle
with those who are fighting so fear-
lessly, as sentinels to warn them
of danger - Thus the bold and fearless
volunteer in his first battle, is using
vigorous and decisive means to combat
the destroyer. But the wise man has
learned a lesson of truth - that without
science or order his best efforts are
futile - Not like the hunting of a

kicked at random, they have fired in vain. Specifics have been heralded through the earth as sovereign and "infallible cures", but as they rise and fall, so do the hopes of the Consumptive rise to fall perhaps to a premature grave. But happily for us and for our patients we tread in a safer and a surer path. We acknowledge no specifics — we do not exclaim at every glittering specious Desideratum — but, guided by the light of science and truth we seek out of nature's great pharmacopeia an appropriate balm for human ills. As we believe that nature or the law of our being is constantly struggling against disease and for the promotion of health

we would aid her gently, and with well selected means according to the Homeopathic law of cure, we confidently expect prompt and abiding relief & suffering, and a due extenuation of life.

The remedies chiefly employed in this disease are the following — After an attack of hemoptysis Acon-Am-Ars. China-Ferrum Puls &c Acon - if there be much congestion in the chest with short cough - hemoptysis - disposition to inflammation, and incipient phthisis - Puls full & hard with regular beating Arnica - If hemoptysis has occurred in consequence of an injury or over-exertion - followed with exhausting and painful condition - especially pains of a bruised character & weary feeling stitching pain in the chest increased by

coughing - Dinning and irregular beating of the heart -

Arsenicum is a very valuable remedy in nearly all stages of the disease - Chilliness & coldness of the limbs - Chilliness after drinking in the afternoon and evening, followed with dry heat and sweat at night - Violent pain and oppression of the chest, burning pain in the stomach, bitter taste, fever with delirium, anxiety & restlessness - Pulse small rapid and sometimes intermittent -

China Incipient phthisis - and after hemorrhage weak, debilitated condition of the system with oppression of chest - particularly at night - on assuming the recumbent posture Stitches in the region of the heart - Strong hard pulse - Profuse sweat - by the least motion and during sleep. Excessive

debility and emaciation Expectoration
of purulent and blood streaked mucus
Hectic fever perspn
Lemon Scanty expectoration, great lassitude
and emaciation - Desire to lie down -
Pulsatilla Especially females of blond hair
pale face, blue eyes, easily inclined to laugh
& weep, melancholy & Effects of large doses
of medicine - sour, pasty, vomits &c - Erratic
pains rapidly shifting from one place
to another - generally relieved by a change
of posture, worse in the evening & before
midnight - Chilliness all over with trembling
and sweat - flushes of heat - Thirst during
heat - Violent palpitation of the heart - severe
pain in the heart - Cough at night on
lying down, and relieved by sitting up in
bed - Cough with expectoration of bitter

or putrid taste, yellow, greenish and dark coagulated blood

Sulphur Scrofulous and rachitic constitutions Eruptions on skin, herpes, hepatic spots on the chest and back - nightly headache in forehead and occiput - beating in head Roughness in throat with hoarseness - Aphonia Dry short cough afternoons loose with expectoration of thick, greenish lumps - Sweetish taste - Rapidly forming ulcerations rattling in chest. Oppression & weakness of chest - pain and stitches extending to the back - palpitation of the heart - without anxiety or any apparent cause - Colliquative diarrhea

Phosphorus Dry cough which seems to be excited by the presence of crude tubercles in the lungs - Hoarseness in the morning

roughness in the larynx and trachea — Aphonia - Cough with stitches in chest - Fatiguing cough with expectoration of sanguineous and tenacious mucus - Saltish & purulent expectoration - palpitation of the heart - Rush of blood to the chest - Crampy feeling in the epigastrium - Diarrhea watery slimy and bloody Hectic fever with dry heat - towards morning - pulse quick and full or faint - Exhausting night and morning sweats

Calcarea Carbonicum Like Sulph is one of the most important remedies - Shortness of breath on the least exercise - Tightness of the chest as if filled with blood - Chest is painful when touched and on inspiration Oppression anguish of chest & palpitation of the heart - Chilliness in the morning, heat in the face and forehead Exhausting sweat -

day and night - and by exercise - Profuse night-
sweat - Desire for acidulated drinks
Bryonia Symptoms are aggravated at night.
at nine o'clock in the evening, after eating,
and by motion Hoarseness and roughness
of voice - violent Cough early in the
morning when rising, with expectoration
of mucus - Shortness of breath - hurried
respiration - Oppression of chest - with stitches
in the sides - attacks of pleurisy - quick
anxious respiration and almost impossible
breathing - Incipient phthisis
Lycopodium - Chilliness and fever in afternoon
and evening - Alternate chill and heat -
burning heat in bed at night, followed
with clammy sweat - Sensitiveness
Starting - melancholy — Distended abdomen
Constipation difficult passage of stool

Short hacking cough from titillation in the throat - Cough at night with hoarseness cough with gray, salt expectoration green expectoration in the morning and sometimes yellow - Ulcerous phthisis cough with bloody expectoration and hemorrhage - Burning in the chest -, and palpitation of the heart -

Iodine Inclination to hemorrhage - great emaciation - pale face - nervous weakness Pulse quick and weak - Hectic fever and night sweats. Fever with delirium, Shooting pain in the head from congestion Aphtha in the mouth - tongue coated putrid smell from the mouth - Inflammation and ulceration of the throat - Cessation of menses Hoarseness in the morning singing and tickling in the larynx - Cough

Extreme difficulty of breathing - Asthma
Want of breath - difficult expansion of
the chest - soreness and pulsation in the
chest - swelling of the thyroid gland
Fatty induration of the goitre - Edema of
the lower limbs and feet - sweating of feet -
Kali Bi Chromicum - Chiefly when the
larynx & trachea are affected with inflam-
mation and ulceration
Numerous other remedies will be important
in the course of the disease, such as -
Silicea Natrum Hepar Lachesis Dulc
Carb-veg Hyos - Nitric Ac - Con Zinc Am C.
Calc - Phos - Iron. Dig - Hamamelis - Sulph Ac -
Sepia Crotalus &c —

In submitting this
Essay to you, gentlemen of the Faculty
I am aware of its imperfections,

and especially its deficiency in minute pathological description, and also the pathogenetic relations of medicines
But with ordinary enjoyment of time and means for investigation and reflection, I cannot well do more, within the proper bounds of a Thesis -
Trusting that this article will be subjected to a lenient criticism

I remain Gentlemen
Yours Most Respectfully
D. L. Bishop

To the Faculty
Dr W. A. Gardiner
Dean